

### **1-Page Summary of EPC's Statements Regarding Same-Sex Attraction**

North Park Church is part of a family of churches known as the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). On June 18<sup>th</sup>, during the annual meeting of church leaders from all over the country, we approved important updates to already existing statements related to human sexuality.<sup>1</sup> This was the result of reflecting more deeply on what the Bible teaches regarding same-sex attraction.

**Homosexual sin begins in the heart.** The statements affirm the deep, heart-level nature of sin. From its deepest roots in our heart to its ripest fruit in our behavior, and everything in between, anything oriented toward sin is itself sin and sinful. Both homosexual practice as well as same-sex attraction are sinful.

**Christians should not claim a “gay” identity.** While we ought to identify our sin, we ought not to be identified by it. The recently approved updates walk the biblical line of clearly identifying sin while refusing to speak of Christians as though such sin were part of their essential identity. For example: we may speak of Christians who “experience same-sex attraction,” but we should not adopt the language of “gay Christian.”

**For Christians, heart transformation is both real and imperfect in this life.** The statements reaffirm both biblical teaching and the EPC's practice of insisting on the need for genuine repentance from sin while also recognizing the ongoing struggle against sin that every Christian continues to experience. Christians are not captive to same-sex attraction, even though they may continue to wrestle against this throughout their life.

**Same-sex attraction should be treated as seriously as any other sin when evaluating candidates for ordination.** Christians who experience same-sex attraction may be considered for ordination, provided there is a clear understanding of the nature of this sin and demonstrated progress, growth, and change regarding this sin struggle. Although such sinful desires and temptations may not be utterly eradicated in this life, persons may be ordained who evidence a persistent walk in Spirit-empowered repentance (as mortification and vivification)<sup>2</sup> with respect to this sin, as in any other sin.

**The EPC has NOT “approved gay ordination” nor have we considered so called “Side-B Christianity,”<sup>3</sup> nor have we voted in favor of ordaining merely “celibate, same-sex attracted pastors.”** I cannot predict whether our stated positions will be misused to justify sin. But the documents themselves articulate a high standard for church leaders. **Someone who affirms a homosexual identity or who embraces same-sex attraction may not be ordained in the EPC.**

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<sup>1</sup> Documents approved can be found here: <https://epconnect.org/adinterimonssa/> accessed June 26, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> *Mortification* may be defined as “dying to sin” and *vivification* as “living unto righteousness.”

<sup>3</sup> A so called “Side-B” approach to homosexuality limits biblical and Christian morality to abstaining from homosexual practice. It does not recognize same-sex attraction as sinful at a heart level. It also encourages an embrace of a gay identity.